

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1976

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL SHAKE-UP

SUMMARY: FONOFF SOURCE ALLEGES DEPUTY PM REID UNLIKELY RETURN TO FULL DUTY AND THAT HE MAY BE REPLACED BY FONMIN WILLS, WITH RADICAL MINISTER SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY MOVING TO FONMIN. FONOFF MORALE LOW WITH THREATS OF RESIGNATION DUE TO GOVT POLITICAL INTERFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. HIGH LEVEL SOURCE AT FONOFF GAVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO DCM NOV 20 TH, ALLEGING THAT MUCH OF IT CAME DIRECTLY TO HIM FROM FONMIN FRED WILLS:

A) DEPUTY PM ANDPNC GENERAL SECRETARYPTOLEMY REID SUFFERED A STROKE LAST WEEK, NOT A MERE DISORDER OF A FACIAL NERVE AS WAS ALLEGED. HE IS NOW PARTIALLY PARALYZED ON LEFT SIDE AND PROGNOSIS FOR HIS RETURN TO FULL DUTY IS NOT GOOD.

B) POWER GROUPS WITHIN PNC ARE JOCKEYING TO REPLACE REID. GROUPS HAVE COALESCED INTO ONE FAVORING COOPERATIVES MINISTER HAMILTON GREEN AS NEXT DEPUTY PM AND ANOTHER PUSHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DESMOND HOYTE AS MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO BLOCK GREEN. BURNHAM, WHO DEMOTED GREEN IN CABINET RESHUFFLE LAST YEAR, IS ADAMANTLY DETERMINED TO BLOCK GREEN'S SUCCESSION TO REID'S JOBS, BUT ALSO NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HOYTE. GREEN, CONFIDENTIAL

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REALIZING THAT HE CANNOT PRESENTLY BUCK BURNHAM'S OPPOSITIN, HAS

OFFERED TO BACK FRED WILLS AS DEPUTY PM ON CONDITION THAT WILLS

CONVINCE BURNHAM TO APPOINT GREEN'S WIFE, INFORMATION AND CULTURE MINISTER SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, TO SUCCEED WILLS AS FONMIN. SOURCE THINKS THIS HAS GOOD CHANCE OF TRANSPIRING WITHIN NEXT MONTH UNLESS REID SHOWS UNEXPECTEDLY RAPID RECOVERY. SOURCE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER WILLS HAS DISCUSSED SCENARIO WITH BURNHAM. WILLS, BY THIS ACCOUNT, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ALSO RECEIVE REID'S TITLE AS PNC GENERAL SECRETARY. THAT RPT THAT JOB WOULD POSSIBLY GO TO LABOR MINISTER WINSLOW CARRINGTON.

2. SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL FONOFF OFFICERS INCLUDING PERM SEC RUDY COLLINS AND SUBSTANTIVE CHIEF LLOYD SEARWAR WERE SAID BY SOURCE TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS AND POLITICAL MANDATE THAT GUYANA AUTOMATICALLY BACK RADICAL THIRD WORLD INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS WITHOUT ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANCE OF ISSUES. COLLINS AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING RESIGNATION.

ILLUSTRATIVE OF INTERFERENCE ON ASSIGNMENTS, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, IS ALLEGED PLAN TO PURGE GOVT OF "INEFFECTUAL" PERMANENT SECRETARIES FRANK NOEL (TRADE), C.J. BARKER (ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES) AND C. MC ALISTER ASHLEY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PNC SECRETARIAT) BY ASSIGNING THEM AS COUNSELLORS AT GOG OVERSEAS MISSIONS.

3. COMMENT: REID IS PRESENTLY HOSPITALIZED WITH LEFT SIDE OF FACE PARTIALLY PARALYZED. RUMOR OF STROKE HAS BEEN DENIED TO US BY SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING PHYSICIANPRACTICING AT HOSPITAL WHERE HE IS CONFINED WHO DIAGNOSED HIS PROBLEM AS A NERVE CONSTRICTION ASSOCIATED WITH LEPTOSPIROSIS, AND BY FONMIN WILLS, WHO TOLD ME IT WAS SOMETHING CALLED QUOTE SEVENTH NERVE UNQUOTE, TEAM OF PHYSICIANS TREATING HIM HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON HIS CONDITION. WE BELIEVE THAT FONOFF SOURCE, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ACCURATE INFORMATION, WAS CORRECTLY REPORTING VIEWS OF DEMORALIZED FONOFF CAREER OFFICIALS AND WAS PROBABLY CORRECTLY REPORTING ACCOUNT OF HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL MANEUVERING AS HE RECEIVED IT PRIMARILY FROM FRED WILLS. SINCE WILLS IS POLITICAL MACHIAVELLIAN SCHEMER WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR TRUTH, AND IN FACT, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO DELIVERED APPARENTLY SINCERE LECTURE TO DCM ON THE FINE ART OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSTRUCTIVE LYING, WE RESERVE JUDGMENT ON ACCURACY OF REPORT OF TOP LEVEL MANEUVERING FOR THE MOMENT. THE EXISTENCE OF PRO AND ANTI-GREEN FACTIONS AND BURNHAM'S OPPOSITION TO GREEN ACCORD WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF THE PNC, HOWEVER. THOUGH CARRINGTON SEEMS A WEAK REED AS POTENTIAL PNC BOSS, HE IS LOYAL TO BURNHAM, WOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED BY ANY POWER BROKER AS EASY TO MANIPULATE.

WILL'S ABSENCE IN RECENT YEARS FROM PARTY MANEUVERING MAKES HIM
AN UNDERSTANDABLY WEAK CANDIDATE FOR THE PARTY POST. IF WILLS
SHOULD SUCCEED TO THE DEPUT PM SLOT, HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE MORE
FAVORABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS THAN WOULD REID, GREEN AND
PROBABLY HOYTE, ALL OF WHOM ARE CLEARLY IN RADICAL WING OF
PNC. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, PERHAPS MOST RADICAL
AND ANTI-U.S. OF PRESENT CABINET MEMBERS, WOULD BE OUR LAST
CHOICE FOR FONMIN
KREBS

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